Utilisation of Jute Cess Funds for Upgrading Technology etc.

2576. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA:
SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the revenue collected through cess on the jute industries during the last three years has been judiciously spent by the Government to upgrade the technology for better jute fibre and products, to effect expanded export of jute materials abroad;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the percentage in terms of value and quantity of the total jute produced each year and that which could be exported during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(d) whether the jute rating in India has improved substantially to produce better jute fibres as compared to other jute exporting countries; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR): (a) and (b) The cess collected by the Government on jute manufactures is being utilized for undertaking various activities of Jute Manufacturers Development Council (JMDC), particularly export promotion including External Market Assistance to exporters on specified jute products.

JMDC has also lent support to institutions engaged in researeh & development on jute and jute products., viz. Indian Jute Industries Research Association (IJIRA) and Central Research Institute for Jute & Allied Fibres (CRIJAF). The support has been extended mainly on three major products, namely, Food Grade Jute Products, Jute Geo-textiles and Jute Composites, which are showing great potential of exports and consumer acceptability as being eco-friendly products. In addition, IJIRA and CRIJAF have received financial assistance from Ministry of

Textiles and Ministry of Agriculture respectively for undertaking projects to upgrade technology for improvement of jute fibre quality.

(c) The export of raw jute from India is negligible. However, value added jute products are exported from India to various countries. The details of jute goods produced and exported during the IX Plan are as under:—

Qty: in 000 MT
Value: in Rs./Million

Year	Production of Jute Goods		Export of jute goods		%of export of jute goods of total production (quantity)	
	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value
1997-98	1678.4	37674	240.0	6946.58	14.3%	18.4%
1998-99	1596.2	36093	171.0	5822.60	10.7%	16.1%
1999-2000	1590.2	37059	147.1	5518.18	9.3%	14.9%
2000-2001	1624.9	38514	187.0	6912.20	11.5%	17.9%

(d) and (e) There has been a reasonable improvement in jute retting techniques in India as a result of various projects undertaken by institutions like Jute Corporation of India Ltd. (JCI), IJIRA, CRIJAF and National Institute of Research on Jute and Allied Fibre Technology (NIFJAFT) for improvement of jute fibre quality. However, since there is further scope for improvement of the quality of jute fibre, new enzyme related retting techniques developed with UNDP assistance are being tested on a pilot basis under a project taken up in collaboration with Department of Bio-technology.